

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 9224

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 29777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF SWEDISH FOOTWEAR
QUOTAS

REF: STATE 258005

1. SECGEN RAISED QUESTION OF SWEDISH FOOTWEAR QUOTAS
DURING NOV. 13 COUNCIL MEETING, NOTING THAT HE HAD
AUTHORITY UNDER TRADE PLEDGE TO ORGANIZE CONSULTATIONS
IF REQUESTED BY A MEMBER GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO NOTED
NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED BY TRADE COMMITTEE ON TEMPORARY
AND AUTOMATIC LICENSING SYSTEM FOR TEXTILES BY
AUSTRALIA AND FINNISH IMPOSITION OF TEMPORARY AND
SPECIAL DUTIES ON MOTOR VEHICLES. EC COMMISSION DEL
THEN TOOK THE FLOOR TO STATE THAT COMMISSION VIEWS
SWEDISH QUOTAS WITH DEEP CONCERN DUE TO DOUBTS AS TO
JUSTIFICATION AND FEAR THAT SWEDISH ACTION COULD PROVE
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TO BE DANGEROUS EXAMPLE, SETTING OFF REGRETTABLE PROCESS

OF MUTUAL TRADE RESTRICTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT COMMISSION WAS NOT REQUESTING TRADE PLEDGE CONSULTATIONS BECAUSE IT HAS TAKEN THE MATTER UP IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, WHERE COMMISSION EXPECTS A FAVORABLE OUTCOME.

2. DEFENDING FOOTWEAR QUOTA ON NATIONAL DEFENSE GROUNDS, SWEDISH DELEGATE ARGUED THAT FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION HAD FALLEN BELOW MINIMUM LEVEL NECESSARY TO ASSURE PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL MATERIALS IN CASE OF WAR OR OTHER EMERGENCY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. ASSERTING THAT QUOTAS WOULD NOT RESULT IN REDUCTION IN CURRENT IMPORTS, HE SAID 1972-74 BASE PERIOD HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. DRAWING ON REFTTEL, US REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SWEDEN HAD IMPOSED UNILATERAL RESTRICTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS DURING TIME WHEN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY IN MANY COUNTRIES ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES AND NOTED THAT SWEDISH ACTIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON BASIS OF CLOSED AND SOMEWHAT ARBITRARY PROCEDURES AND DO NOT PROVIDE FOR REMOVAL OR PHASING OUT OVER SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME. NOTING THAT COMMISSION REP HAD NOT REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS UNDER TRADE PLEDGE, US REP ASKED THAT TRADE COMMITTEE KEEP THIS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DISCUSSION.

4. SEC GEN INDICATED THAT SWEDISH ACTION WOULD BE ON AGENDA FOR NEXT TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING.
TURNER

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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